

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12, 15, and 17-23, pending in this application, are as follows:

- 1 1. (previously presented) A data storage system comprising:
2 at least one data storage canister, each data storage canister
3 comprising:
4 a shell;
5 a frame disposed within the shell, the frame extending in a lengthwise
6 direction along the shell;
7 a plurality of mounting points disposed along the frame, each mounting
8 point capable of accepting one module of uniform size, the mounting points spaced
9 such that mounted modules are mounted in a parallel, spaced apart manner;
10 a connector system operative to pass electrical signals through the
11 shell;
12 a power bus interconnected to the connector system, the power bus
13 operative to deliver power to each module;
14 a communication interconnect system operative to transfer signals
15 between each mounted module and the connector; and
16 a plurality of data storage modules disposed within the shell, each data
17 storage module mounted at one of the plurality of mounting points, each data storage
18 module in electrical contact with the connector system, the power bus and the
19 communication interconnect system.

- 1 2. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises a retention system for seating the canister within the data
3 storage system.

1 3. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises a lock for holding the canister within the data storage
3 system.

1 4. (canceled).

1 5. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises a label mounted to the canister, the label including
3 information specific to the plurality of data storage modules held within the canister.

1 6. (canceled).

1 7. (canceled).

1 8. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the plurality
2 of data storage modules comprises a plurality of disk drives with data storage disks.

1 9. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the frame
2 comprises a printed circuit board.

1 10. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the frame
2 comprises at least one flexible cable.

1 11. (canceled).

2 12. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 further comprising
3 a data storage rack forming secondary packaging for holding more than several
4 canisters.

1 13. (canceled).

1 14. (canceled).

1 15. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister automatically recognizes capabilities of secondary packaging within the data
3 storage system to which the canister is connected.

1 16. (canceled).

1 17. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister further comprises a processor separate from the plurality of data storage
3 modules, the processor in electrical contact with the connector system, the power bus
4 and the communication interconnect system.

1 18. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the data
2 storage system forms a plurality of virtual volumes, each virtual volume having
3 storage requirements different than the physical resources provided within a single
4 canister.

1 19. (previously presented) The data storage system of claim 1
2 wherein the at least one canister is a first plurality of canisters and a second plurality
3 of canisters, each canister in the second plurality of canisters having at least one
4 performance characteristic substantially different than the at least one corresponding
5 performance characteristic in the first plurality of canisters, the data storage system
6 operative to transfer data from at least one of the canisters in the first plurality of
7 canisters to at least one of the canisters in the second plurality of canisters.

1 20. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 further comprising
2 a docking station accepting one of the plurality of canisters, the docking station
3 operative to communicate with a plurality of appliances.

1 21. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein the canister
2 further comprises a user interface.

1 22. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein data
2 storage modules are dynamically allocated.

1 23. (original) The data storage system of claim 1 wherein at least one
2 canister provides variable bandwidth access to data storage modules within the
3 canister.

1 24.-30. (canceled)